

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (withdrawn): A method of facilitating the formation of a BIC between one or more buyers and one or more sellers, for use as a building block in the formation of any financial derivatives contract, where both said BIC and said financial derivatives contract pertain to any number of underlyings, in a single or multi-period trading framework, for any notional amount, said method comprising the steps of:

- a. establishing a BIC-basis;
- b. identifying agreement terms of said BIC, including at least:
 - information to identify said one or more buyers and said one or more sellers,
 - a contract time indicating when said BIC will become binding,
 - a premium payment time posterior or equal in time to said contract time,
 - a payout payment time posterior or equal in time to said premium payment time,
 - a premium payment amount to be paid by said one or more buyers to said one or more sellers, expressed in the format of a function of observed values of the one or more underlyings from said contract time up to and including said premium payment time, and,—a payout payment amount, expressed in the format of a function of observed values of the one or more underlyings from said contract time up to and including said payout payment time; and,
- c. validating said BIC reflecting the agreement terms.

Claims 2-9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (withdrawn): A method of facilitating the formation of any financial derivatives contract between one or more buyers and one or more sellers, for any number of

underlyings, in a single or multi-period trading framework, for any notional amount comprising the steps of:

- a. identifying agreement terms of said derivatives contract, including:
information to identify said one or more buyers and said one or more sellers,
a contract time indicating when said derivatives contract will become binding,
a premium payment time posterior or equal in time to said contract time,
a payout payment time, posterior or equal in time to said premium payment time,
a premium payment amount to be paid by said one or more buyers to said one or more sellers, expressed in the format of a function of observed values of the one or more underlyings from said contract time up to and including said premium payment time, and,
a payout payment amount, expressed in the DCWBSOF format; and,
- b. validating said derivatives contract reflecting the agreement terms

Claims 11-12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (withdrawn): A method for compressing the format of the payout payment function of a derivatives contract on one or more underlyings, for a single or multi-period trading framework, for any notional amount, to facilitate decomposition into one or more BICs, said method comprising the steps of:

- a. receiving said payout payment function expressed in DCWBSOF format, where said DCWBSOF format is a function of both
observed values of the one or more underlyings from a designated contract time up until and including a designated payout payment time, and,
parameters representing value choices available to said one or more buyers and said one or more sellers from said contract time up to and including said designated payout payment time; and,

b. transforming said payout payment function expressed in said DCWBSOF format into DCWOF format, where said DCWOF format is a function of the observed values of the one or more underlyings from said contract time up until

and including said payout payment time but not parameters representing value choices available to said one or more buyers and said one or more sellers from said contract time up to and including said designated payout payment time.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The method of claim 13 wherein said transforming step comprises: iteratively assigning to the parameters, value choices to be made by the one or more buyers, in reverse chronological order, from said payout payment time to said contract time, whereby said value choices maximize, at each time step of the iterative process, the value of the contract to the one or more buyers.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): The method of claim 13 wherein said transforming step comprises: iteratively assigning to the parameters, value choices to be made by the one or more sellers, in reverse chronological order, from said payout payment time to said contract time, whereby said value choices minimize, at each time step of the iterative process, the value of the contract to the one or more sellers.

Claims 16-21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (withdrawn): A method for transforming an initial derivatives contract, on one or more underlyings, for a single or multi-period trading framework, for any notional amount, into an ultimate portfolio of replicating BICs, for valuation and hedging purposes, said method comprising:

- a. receiving a BIC-basis;
- b. receiving the payout payment function for said derivatives contract;
- c. receiving prices for elements of said BIC-basis; and,
- d. performing an iterative process to return said ultimate portfolio of replicating BICs.

Claims 23-57 (canceled)

Claim 58 (withdrawn): A method for providing the price of each BIC within an original BIC-basis of one or more related BICs, where each BIC of said original BIC-basis is considered an element of said BIC-basis, and where each BIC pertains to any number of underlyings, in a single or multi-period trading framework, for any notional amount n, said method comprising:

- a. identifying any subsequent BIC-basis having elements with premium payment amounts derived from the premium payment amounts of said original BIC-basis of one or more related BICs; and,
- b. providing the premium payment amounts of each element of said subsequent BIC-basis using a functional formula

Claims 59-96 (canceled)

Claim 97 (withdrawn): A method for pricing a derivatives contract on any number of underlyings, in a single or multi-period trading framework, for any notional amount, comprising:

- a. enabling a stakeholder to provide a description of said derivatives contract in a functional format;
- b. enabling said stakeholder to provide a price for one or more basis instruments; and,
- c. providing a price for said derivatives contract responsive to steps a and b.

Claims 98-114 (canceled)

Claim 115 (withdrawn): A method for a first stakeholder in a financial transaction to incorporate credit risk sensitivity in the estimation of the value of a counterparty's liability, said method comprising:

a. creating a credit risk underlying whose value at any given time is equal to the percentage of the liability said counterparty honors at said given time, and where

said percentage depends on the notional amount of said counterparty's liability at said given time, said first stakeholders identity and said counterparty's identity; and,

b. multiplying the value of the liability said of counterparty at said given time by said credit risk underlying to obtain a result known as the value of the credit risk adjusted liability at said given time.

Claim 116-120 (canceled)

Claim 121 (withdrawn): A method for calculating the credit risk limit of a given counterparty by setting a maximum responsive to the difference between the value of the counterparty liability not inclusive of credit risk and the value of said liability inclusive of credit risk

Claim 122 (withdrawn): A method for determining a margin amount due by a stakeholder on a derivatives contract comprising:

a. determining a first payment amount by said stakeholder, where said first payment amount is viewed from the position of said stakeholders counterparty, when said counterparty is anticipating a default by said stakeholder;

- b. determining a second payment amount by said stakeholder, where said second payment amount is viewed from the position of said stakeholders counterparty when said counterparty is not contemplating a default by said stakeholder; and,
- c. calculating said margin responsive to said first payment amount and said second payment amount.

Claims 123-144 (canceled)

Claim 145 (withdrawn): A method for incorporating supply and demand sensitivities in BICs premium payment amounts, in units of base currency comprising inputting a scaling density function relating the dependence of the first unit notional premium amount of said BICs to the premium amount for any other notional amount of said BICs.

Claims 146-151 (canceled)

Claim 152 (withdrawn): A method for automatically quoting BICs prices in a trading or exchange system comprising inputting functions representative of BICs prices responsive to offer and demand.

Claims 153-177 (canceled)

Claim 178 (currently amended) A method for mediating trading in BICs derivatives comprising:

- a. establishing a BICs-basis;
- b. establishing a network to facilitate interaction between stakeholders under the supervision of a trading system management authority;
- c. causing said network to communicate with said stakeholders to enable a determination of trading prices for BICs trades;

- d. identifying relevant derivatives contracts;
- e. decomposing said relevant derivatives contracts to create a portfolio of BICs;
and,
- f. finalizing a transaction in said portfolio of BICs.

Claim 198 (new): A system for mediating trading in BICs derivatives comprising:

- a. means for establishing a BICs-basis;
- b. means for establishing a network to facilitate interaction between stakeholders under the supervision of a trading system management authority;
- c. means for causing said network to communicate with said stakeholders to enable a determination of trading prices for BICs trades;
- d. means for identifying relevant derivatives contracts;
- e. means for decomposing said relevant derivatives contracts to create a portfolio of BICs; and,
- f. means for finalizing a transaction in said portfolio of BICs.

Claim 218 (new): A computer program product for mediating trading in BICs derivatives comprising a computer usable medium with computer readable code means comprising:

- a. computer readable code means for establishing a BICs-basis;
- b. computer readable code means for establishing a network to facilitate interaction between stakeholders under the supervision of a trading system management authority;

c. computer readable code means for causing said network to communicate with said stakeholders to enable a determination of trading prices for BICs trades;

d. computer readable code means for identifying relevant derivatives contracts ;

e. computer readable code means for decomposing said relevant derivatives contracts to create a portfolio of BICs; and,

f. computer readable code means for finalizing a transaction in said portfolio of BICs.

Claims 179-237 (canceled)

Claim 238 (withdrawn): A method for managing risk on a portfolio of financial derivatives contracts comprising:

a. maintaining an inventory of said derivatives contracts, where said inventory of said derivatives contracts is maintained in BICs units;

b. assessing the risk on said inventory of financial derivatives contracts responsive to said inventory; and

c. re-allocating inventory responsive to assessing the risk on said portfolio.

Claims 239-267 (canceled)

Claim 268 (withdrawn): A method of accounting for derivatives contracts, in compliance with FAS 133 or IAS 39, to reduce volatility in periodic earnings, where said derivatives contracts are used to hedge against fluctuations in the value of a held asset, comprising:

a. determining a BIC basis;

- b. determining a target value associated with the value of said held asset;
- c. establishing a residual contract, where said residual contract is a portfolio containing:
 - a long position in said derivatives contract,
 - a long position in said held asset if said held asset is a long position held, and,
 - a short cash position with value equal to said target value;
- d. decomposing said residual contract in said BIC basis; and,
- e. reporting said residual contract in a net profit or loss as the non-hedging part of said derivatives contract.

Claims 269-273 (canceled)